



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK ADDRESSES IRAQI NATIONAL CONGRESS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback spoke to the National Assembly of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) in New York, NY on Saturday. Excerpts from his address follow:

“This National Assembly is a new beginning for the Iraqi opposition,” Brownback said. “There have been too many missed opportunities in the last decade, mistakes from which one man has benefitted: Saddam Hussein. But that time is behind us. Let’s put Saddam Hussein on notice here and now: We will not rest until we see Saddam Hussein behind bars.

“Removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq is extremely important to the national security of the United States and its allies in the Middle East. Unfortunately, neither President Bush nor President Clinton has been willing to do so. That means the job is up to you.

“You will need the support and assistance of the United States and of countries in the region. But most of all, you will need to become a potent, unified force. Divided, you represent millions of Iraqis. Together, you can represent much of the country. Divided, you have rivalries that you could fight out for centuries, and still not resolve. Together, you can democratize Iraq within a year. Your fate, and the fate of all the peoples of Iraq, is together. This is your start, but you must keep it up.

“You have many missions, and democracy is only one of them. There are humanitarian problems inside Iraq; there is a war crimes tribunal to pursue. You are the people to do it.

“In addition, I believe the United States must pursue a pro-active policy to put Saddam Hussein on notice that the status quo will not continue. Though we have four red lines Saddam may not cross, we should be adding more. I intend to recommend to the president pursuing a no drive zone throughout northern and southern Iraq. Further, the protections in place for the Kurdish people should be in place for residents of southern Iraq. If we are unwilling to tolerate an attack on the Kurds, why should one on Shi’ites or Sunni be more acceptable? Saddam cannot be permitted to oppress his own people.

“Remember, we have a common enemy. Saddam Hussein has murdered hundreds of thousands of his people, your people. He is starving the children of Iraq right now. He has enriched himself and his despicable cronies. He is developing weapons of mass destruction, and I have no doubt he is willing to use those weapons. Saddam Hussein is evil, and he must no longer be tolerated in Iraq,” Brownback said.